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Georgia Taxpayers Embracing Technology To File Income Tax Returns

ATLANTA – Georgia taxpayers are continuing to show their acceptance of technology in filing their state income tax return.

"Georgia leads the country in the number of individuals who have jointly filed their federal and state returns electronically," said Georgia Commissioner of Revenue T. Jerry Jackson.

As of Feb. 15, the state has received 630,168 electronic returns and 44,656 returns have been received via TeleFile. This is the first year the state has used TeleFiling. Last year, approximately 890,000 Georgians filed electronically.

"We believe the combined total of electronic and TeleFilers will exceed 1 million during this tax filing season," said Bobby Goolsby, Director of the Department of Revenue's Income Tax Division.

Goolsby reminded electronic filers and TeleFilers that they do not need to send any type of paper documents to the state if they are due a refund or have a zero balance.

Electronic filers, who have a balance due, should send a check or money order made out to the Georgia Income Tax Division attached to the payment voucher that the software program prints out. TeleFilers with a balance due should use the payment voucher in their tax instruction booklet.

"This applies regardless if you use an online software program, a professional preparer or you do it yourself on your personal computer," Goolsby emphasized.

Goolsby reminded individuals and tax professionals, who use a software program to prepare the return and mail in a paper return, that they must submit at a minimum pages one and two with the return. Other pages should only be included if they contain information that impacts the return.

"The software programs print out these pages. However, page one does not resemble any form from previous years," Goolsby explained. "And many taxpayers are failing to include it with their return. Failure to include the page will slow down the processing of the return and the mailing of any refund."

Goolsby also reminded paper filers that they must submit a copy of their federal form 1040 and all W2s with their state return, if their federal adjusted gross income exceeds \$40,000.